

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) capturing a user image of a user with an external area imaging device, wherein the external area imaging device has a field of view including an exterior area outside of a deposit accepting machine;
- 10 (b) capturing an item image of a deposit item placed inside the deposit accepting machine with an interior area imaging device, wherein the interior area imaging device has a field of view including an interior area inside the deposit accepting machine;
- (c) displaying the user image and the item image to the user through a display operatively connected to the deposit accepting machine.

15 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein in step (c) the user image and the item image are simultaneously displayed through the display.

3. The method according to claim 1 and further comprising the step of:

storing the user image and the item image in associated relation in a storage device.

5 4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the deposit accepting machine includes an access opening, wherein a movable door selectively enables access to the interior area through the access opening, and wherein in step (a) the user image is captured responsive to the user moving the door to a position opening the access opening.

10 5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the deposit accepting machine includes an access opening to the interior area, wherein the deposit item is passed to the interior area through the access opening, and wherein the deposit accepting machine includes an item transport extending in the interior area, and prior to step (b) further comprising the step of:

15 moving the deposit item away from the access opening with the item transport to a first internal area wherein the deposit is not accessible through the access opening, and wherein the image of the deposit item in step (b) is captured when the deposit item is in the first internal area.

6. The method according to claim 5 wherein the interior area of the deposit accepting machine further includes a second internal area, wherein the deposit item is stored in

the interior area in the second internal area, and subsequent to step (c) further comprising the step of passing the deposit item from the first internal area to the second internal area.

7. The method according to claim 3 wherein the storage device is in operative connection with a server, and further comprising the step of accessing at least one of the item image and the user image from a remote computer through the server.

8. The method according to claim 1 and further comprising the steps of:

receiving a user input from the user through at least one input device in operative connection with the deposit accepting machine;

comparing through operation of a computer, data corresponding to at least a portion of the user input to data stored in a data store for a corresponding relationship;

enabling the user to access the interior area to place the deposit item therein responsive to the input data and stored data having a corresponding relationship.

9. The method according to claim 8 wherein the user input received includes a deposit bag identifier.

10. The method according to claim 8 wherein the input device includes a keypad, and wherein the input received includes a deposit bag identification number input through the keypad.

11. The method according to claim 8 wherein the input device includes a card reader  
5 and the input received includes data encoded on a card.

12. The method according to claim 2 wherein the user image and item image are displayed as a single combined image, and further comprising the step of storing the single combined image in a storage device.

13. The method according to claim 8 wherein the user input further includes amount  
10 data representative of an amount associated with the deposit item, and wherein in step (c) the amount is displayed through the display with the user image and the item image.

14. The method according to claim 8 wherein the user input further includes data  
representative of a first amount of a first type item included in the deposit item and a second  
amount of a second type item included in the deposit item, and wherein in step (c) the first  
15 amount and the second amount are displayed with the user image and the item image.

15. The method according to claim 13 and further comprising the step of storing data  
representative of the amount, user image and item image in associated relation in a storage  
device.

16. The method according to claim 15 wherein in the storing step the amount, user image and item image are stored as a single combined image in the storage device.

17. The method according to claim 15 wherein the computer is in operative connection with a clock device, and further comprising recording at least one current time during execution of at least one of the method steps, and wherein in the storing step data representative of the recorded current time is stored in associated relation with the amount, user image and item image.

18. The method according to claim 8 and further comprising the steps of:

presenting on the display a prompt message for a user to input a receipt number corresponding to a number of receipts to be provided;

receiving from a user a receipt number input through an input device operatively connected to the deposit accepting machine;

providing with a receipt delivery device operatively connected to the deposit accepting machine, a number of receipts corresponding to the receipt number input by the user.

19. The method according to claim 18 wherein the receipt delivery device includes a printer, wherein in the providing step the printer is operative to print the number of receipts, wherein each receipt includes indicia corresponding to the amount.

20. The method according to claim 17 wherein the storage device is in operative connection with a server, and further comprising the steps of accessing with a remote computer through the server the associated stored data representative of the recorded time, amount, user image and item image.

21. An apparatus including the deposit accepting machine, external area imaging device, the internal area imaging device, and the display recited in claim 1, operated responsive to a computer to perform the method steps recited in claim 1.